

a filter coupled to the guidewire; and

a tapered member coupled to the guidewire distally of the filter.

23. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the filter includes a plurality of openings for fluid flow therethrough.

24. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, further comprising a tapered frame coupled to the filter.

25. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the frame includes a mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

26. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a rib having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to the mouth.

27. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

28. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is tapered.

29. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

30. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

31. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member further comprises a channel.

32. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 31, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.

33. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 32, wherein at least a portion of the tapered member is disposed within the sheath.

34. (New) A distal protection device, comprising:

a sheath;

a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;

a filter having a plurality of openings;

a tapered frame coupled to the filter, the frame including a mouth;

a rib having a first end and a second end;

wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to the mouth; and

a tapered member coupled to the guidewire.

35. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the mouth is adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

36. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 35, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

37. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is tapered.

38. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

39. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

40. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member further comprises a channel.

41. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 40, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.

42. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the docking member is disposed within the sheath.

43. (New) A distal protection device, comprising:  
a sheath;  
a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through at least a portion of the sheath;  
a filter slidably connected to the guidewire;  
a filter advancing member slidable relative to the guidewire and having a distal end and proximal end, the filter being engaged with the filter advancing member proximal the distal end of the filter engaging member; and  
a stop coupled to the guidewire.

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44. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the filter includes mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

45. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 44, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

46. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is tapered.

47. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

48. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

49. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop further comprises a channel.

50. (New) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 49, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.

Examination and consideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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